

the professors of it. The great usefulness, as well as the pleasant and delightful study and wholesome exercise of which tempted so many to apply themselves thereto, that at length in Egypt, as in the Bermudas, every rustic could measure his own land.

On a fly leaf is this, in the handwriting of the young student, now in the 20th year of his age:

William Young, his book. Bought of  
Mr John McNulty, price six shillings.  
Aprile 16th, 1818, on Thursday.

Previously to him the following persons seemed to have owned the book:

Israel Hollowell, May 9, 1775  
John Goodrich, February 13, 1794  
Joseph Fisherton, January 30, 1795  
George Harrison, February 13, 1805  
Joseph McNulty.

This copy was bound in very substantial calf skin, and when it became worn on the back edges by sixty years service in so many hands, it was repaired by a wide strip of dressed deer skin, sewed on by waxed threads such as shoemakers use.

His tuition for two months was nine shillings, (\$1.50)—seventy-five cents per month. Having learned surveying with Mr McNulty Captain Young taught school a few months, and then repaired to Lewisburg, West Virginia, where he studied grammer, taught by Dr McElhenney, as a specialty, according to old Green-leaf of bitter memory to grammar students of that

period. One study at a time, was the rule then. People have learned differently since. Upon his return from Lewisburg, Mr Young opened a school on Stony Creek, in the school house near George Baxters. His first grammar scholar was Samuel Waugh, brother of the late Rev John Waugh of revered memory. The school was taught by on the open or vocal plan, and Samuel Waugh did not object to the noise. Captain Young seems to have had the monopoly of grammar teaching on Stony Creek for many years.

Having completed his education, so advanced for his day, and under so many difficulties, his thoughts turned to settling himself in life. He was happily married to Miss Ann Smith, and built up a home on Stony Creek, and reared up a highly respectable family of sons and daughters.

He was the captain of the Stony Creek Company, Justice of the Peace, and was the second Surveyor of Pocahontas County, successor to Sampson Mathews.

He was a very quiet, exemplary person in youth, but did not unite with any church until somewhat advanced in life, when he became a member of the Methodist church.

He died of consumption, November 24, 1848, and his grave is in the Duffield grave yard, marked by a lettered stone. His widow and most of the children went west. Mrs Young was a person of uncommon force of character, and was much esteemed for her many virtues. She died in her far western home, 8th of May, 1891, aged 90 years.

Adam Young, one of the sons, married Susan Gay,

and their two sons, John and Adam, are about all of Captain Young's descendants—of his name—in the county, with whose history he was so prominently identified for so many years.

Colonel Samuel Young, whose memory was recently honored by a large outpouring of the citizens at the Sulphur Spring, Sunday, May 3, 1894,—according to an appointment made forty years before, that if alive, he would meet them there that day—was his second son. He was a local preacher, and afterwards an officer in the Union army. He did not live to meet his unique appointment, and among those who assembled forty years after, there were eleven who were present at the original meeting, which was a preaching service in the open air, a large rock serving for a pulpit.

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### ADAM CURRY.

A generation since, one of the best known characters in West Highland, Virginia, was Captain Adam Curry, a Revolutionary veteran. One of his grandsons, William Curry, is a well known citizen of Pocahontas County.

Captain Curry was a native of Scotland, and came to America, and resided several years near Manasses Junction. He was among the first to enlist in the war of the Revolution, and was chosen captain of his company, and participated in all the engagements in which Virginia troops were engaged that followed Mercer and Washington.

Soon after the war he gathered up the remnants of

Year."  
**COOPER, Dale.** See Cooper, Wilma Lee and Stoney.

**COOPER, Stoney,** a fiddler, was born in Harmon in 1918. He began in radio on the WWVA Jamboree in Wheeling and later appeared on radio in the Midwest and South as well as in Fairmont. He went to the Grand Ole Opry in 1957. After performing for many years with his wife, Wilma Lee Leary Cooper (see) Harvard University voted them the most authentic mountain singing group in America in 1950. Their records were placed in the Library of Music at Harvard.

Among the songs he recorded were: "West Virginia Polka," "Thirty Pieces of Silver," "The Golden Rocket," "The Legend of the Dogwood Tree," "Willie Roy, the Crippled Boy," "Just for a While," "How it Hurts to Be Alone," "Please Help Me If I Am Wrong," "Each Season Changes You," "I Want to Be Loved," "Cheated Too," "This Crazy Crazy World," "There's A Big Wheel," "Walking My Lord Up Calvary's Hill," "Come Walk with Me," "The Tramp on the Street," "The Canadian Reel," "Big Midnight Special," "Rachel's

Guitar," "I've Been Cheated Too," "Diamond Joe," "The White Rose," "Not Anymore," "We Make a Lovely Couple," "Row Two, Seat Three," "Loving You," "This Thing Called Man," "My Heart Keeps Crying," "I Tell My Heart," "He Taught Them How," "Is It Right," "X Marks the Spot."

COOPER, Wilma Lee and Stoney, performers on the Grand Ole Opry, were natives of Randolph County.

Wilma Lee, born Wilma Leigh Leary, was born in Valley Head, but became a resident of Elkins when she was three years old. At the age of five she began performing with her family's group, which was known as "The Leary Family - Country Style Church Singers." They were selected to represent the state of West Virginia at the National Folk Festival in Washington, D.C. in 1937 and 1938. She later went to Davis and Elkins College, but never lost her interest in music.

Stoney was actually named Dale Cooper. He was born on his family's farm near Harman and grew up doing farm chores as well as learning to play the five string banjo and fiddle. After graduating from high school he remained on the farm and played for country-style hoedowns until 1937, when he was hired to play fiddle with Rusty Hiser and the Green Valley Boys in Fairmont, playing regularly on station WMMN.

In 1940 Wilma and Stoney met and formed their own band, The Clinch Mountain Clan. In 1947 they moved to Wheeling and began appearing regularly on WWVA's Jamboree U.S.A. They also signed a contract with the Columbia Record Company that year. They recorded many hits, including "The West Virginia Polka," and "The Legend of the

Dogwood Tree," which was selected for the Columbia Hall of Fame. In 1955 they were offered a contract with WSM, in Nashville and became regulars on the Grand Ole Opry.

COOPER, Wilma Lee Leary, a native of Valley Head, was the wife of Stoney Cooper (see). The pair was voted the most authentic mountain singing group in America in 1950 by Harvard University. For records see Stoney Cooper. Mrs. Cooper wrote the following songs: "Cheated Too," "Heartbreak Street," "He Taught Them How," "I Tell My Heart," "Loving You," "My Heart Keeps Crying," "Tomorrow I'll Be Gone," and was co-writer of "Big Midnight Special."

CORDA, Don. "West Virginia Centennial Song," sheet music.

CORNETT, Ewel, Producer-Director of the West Virginia Historical Drama Association, and the composer of the musical score for the outdoor dramas *Honey in the Rock*, and *Hatfields and McCoy's*, was born in Louisville, Kentucky in 1937, the son of Ewel Butler Cornett, Sr., and Nettie Lytle (Crawford) Cornett.

He attended the University of Kentucky and the University of Illinois, where he received his Bachelor of Music Degree. He was the originator of the Actors Theatre of Louisville, Kentucky and directed and appeared in numerous productions there. He appeared in various dramatic works in stock theatres and with off-Broadway companies around the United States. Some of his major roles were in plays such as *Little Mary Sunshine* and *The Three Penny Opera* at the Pittsburgh Playhouse, and in *Camelot* and *The Unsinkable Molly Brown* on Broadway.

He came to West Virginia as Managing Director of *Honey in*

Dogwood Tree," which was selected for the Columbia Hall of Fame. In 1955 they were offered a contract with WSM, in Nashville and became regulars on the Grand Ole Opry.

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